

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JAMES RESTON COLUMN NEW YORK
TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 19 HEADED "THE MEANING OF
TRAGEDY."

2. WASHINGTON, APRIL 18--THE TRAGEDY OF FORMER PRIME
MINISTER ALDO MORO OF ITALY IS A STARTLING REMINDER OF
THE FRAGILITY OF ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS. THEY ARE
WORRYING THESE DAYS ABOUT CLASSIC WARS OF INVASION
ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS, AND THEY DEBATE ENDLESSLY OVER
CRUISE MISSILES, BACKFIRE BOMBERS, AND NEUTRON ARTILLERY
SHELLS THAT CAN KILL FLEETS OF TANKS; BUT IN THE LAST
QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, THE TYRANNY OF DESPERATE MINOR-
ITIES MAY ALSO BE A MAJOR THREAT TO WORLD ORDER-
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3. THERE ARE NEW FORMS OF WARFARE LOOSE IN THE WORLD:
KIDNAPPINGS OF PROMINENT POLITICAL AND BUSINESS OFFI-
CIALS; SKYJACKING OF PLANES; PROXY WARS IN AFRICA BY
SOVIET MERCENARY SOLDIERS OUT OF CUBA; AND BLACKMAIL,
TERRORISM AND THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES.

4. THE MORO CASE IS ONLY A SYMBOL OF THE PROBLEM. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, WANDERING THROUGH AFRICA, IS EQUALLY VULNERABLE TO THIS TERROR. WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER GOES ABROAD, HE TAKES ALONG A BULLET-PROOF CAR.

5. WHEN YOU GO TO ANY AMERICAN EMBASSY OVERSEAS THESE DAYS, YOU ARE MET NOT BY A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OR A SMILING HOSTESS, BUT BY A MARINE GUARD, WHO HAS MORE MANNERS THAN GUNS. EVERY U.S. AMBASSADOR, IN CAPITALS THAT HAVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES, HAS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY AND THE SECURITY OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

6. EVEN IN WASHINGTON, THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS A CONVOY OF SECURITY GUARDS TO PROTECT HIM FROM AGGRIEVED IRANIAN STUDENTS; AND IF YOU GO TO LUNCH HERE WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS, THEY PICK THEIR TABLE VERY CAREFULLY AND HAVE ONE OR TWO SECURITY GUARDS PLACED DISCREETLY IN THE ROOM. SO WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS A VERY TROUBLING THING: THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS LIVING UNDER THE DOMINION OF FEAR.

7. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, WE ARE PROBABLY NOT AT THE END BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS TYRANNY OF MILITANT MINORITIES. THE MORE PEOPLE CROWD INTO THE CITIES OF THE WORLD, THE MORE VULNERABLE CITIES BECOME TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SABOTAGE OF DESPERATE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE RED BRIGADES.

8. FOR EXAMPLE, ANY TERRORIST GROUP, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, THAT KNOWS WHAT MANHOLES TO GO DOWN TO GET AT THE ELECTRICAL GUTS OR SWITCHES OF ANY MAJOR CITY, CAN TERRORIZE THE LIFE OF THAT CITY. AND AS WE MOVE INTO THE AGE OF NUCLEAR ELECTRIC POWER, AS WE ARE BOUND TO DO AS PETROLEUM SUPPLIES RUN OUT, THE PROBLEM OF SABOTAGE IS LIKELY TO BECOME MORE SERIOUS.

9. TERRORISTS CAN CREATE CONFUSION IF THEY CAN CAPTURE A MORO IN ROME OR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN ARGENTINA, OR INVADE THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM; BUT IF THEY CONTROL A NUCLEAR ENERGY FACTORY, OR EVEN A RAILROAD TRAIN CARRYING NUCLEAR WASTES, THEY CAN HOLD WHOLE CITIES AND COUNTRIES FOR RANSOM.

10. IN THAT EVENT, THEY CAN THREATEN TO DUMP NUCLEAR WASTES INTO THE HARBOR OF STOCKHOLM OR THE RIVERS OF GERMANY AND POLLUTE THEM FOR GENERATIONS. THIS IS NOT A CRAZY SPECULATION: IT IS A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY

EVERY COUNTRY DEALING WITH MODERN TERRORISTS IS NOW
HAVING TO FACE.

11. ONE OF THE HOPEFUL THINGS ABOUT ALL THIS IS THAT THERE ARE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PROBLEMS THAT NO COUNTRY CAN RESOLVE BY ITSELF. NATIONS CANNOT DEAL WITH TERROR ON THE INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS UNLESS THEY AGREE TO REFUSE ASYLUM TO THE SKYJACKERS. THEY CANNOT PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THEIR PEOPLES UNLESS THEY AGREE TO STOP TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE ATMOSPHERE. THEY CANNOT AVOID A NEW ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE OR UNDER THE SEAS UNLESS THEY NEGOTIATE SOME RULES IN THE INTEREST OF ALL NATIONS.

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12. THIS IS, ONE HOPES, WHAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT TO LEONID BREZHNEV AND ANDREI GROMYKO IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK; NOT ONLY ABOUT THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT ABOUT THE CONTROL OF TERRORISM, ABOUT THE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA, ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

13. WE WILL BE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT TRYING TO WORK WITH WASHINGTON FOR A NEW PEACEFUL ORDER IN THE WORLD, OR WHETHER MOSCOW WANTS TO GO ON FINANCING THE RED BRIGADES IN ITALY AND USING THE CUBANS TO DOMINATE THE STRATEGIC NAVAL LANES AROUND THE HORN OF AFRICA.

14. THE OFFICIAL VIEW IN WASHINGTON, IF I UNDERSTAND IT, IS THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE MORE TO GAIN BY AGREEING TO CONTROL TERRORISM AND COOPERATING IN AFRICA THAN BY FINANCING THE TERRORISTS AND GETTING INTO A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION IN AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

15. IT IS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT MESSRS. VANCE AND BREZHNEV WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE. THE COMMUNISTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN ITALY. THE TERRORISTS IN THAT COUNTRY ARE CREATING SO MUCH CHAOS THAT MOSCOW THINKS THEY MAY PREVAIL IN THE END, BUT MR. VANCE IS LIKELY TO BE VERY SEVERE ON THIS MATTER.

16. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS AT A VERY CRITICAL POINT IN BOTH ITS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. IT IS WATCHING THE VANCE MISSION VERY CAREFULLY. IT IS TRYING TO SAY TO MOSCOW THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ALDO
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MORO COULD HAPPEN TO ANYBODY, THAT CHAOS THREATENS ALL
NATIONS, AND THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO LOOK AT THE
PROBLEM OF ARMS, MONEY, TRADE AND TERRORISM IN A
TOTALLY DIFFERENT WAY. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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